

IDAHO COMMUNITY TREES

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF LANDS - COMMUNITY FORESTRY PROGRAM AND IDAHO LANDS RESOURCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

**News You
Can Use
No. 80
Fall 2016**

Want to start or upgrade your tree board?

See page 4 for help.

Coordinator's Column

Trees and Climate

Adapting to the future

Each year the weather seems more unusual, to the point that unusual weather now seems to be the norm. Indeed, we are already seeing changes in our climate—longer, hotter and drier summers; warmer, wetter and shorter winters; earlier and faster spring runoff. The prediction by climate scientists for the inland west is that this trend will continue. How do we manage for this?

The Bad News: As a result of these changes, damaging insects are developing faster, emerging sooner and producing more generations in a year. At the same time, forests are stressed from lack of moisture making them far more vulnerable to these pests. Weaker trees are also less able to fight off disease. As large expanses of forests die, they become fuel for fire. Our wildfire seasons are longer and catastrophic wildfires more frequent, adding more CO₂ (a key “greenhouse” gas that holds in heat) into the air further exacerbating the trends. The ranges of tree species are moving uphill and north, and what is native now may soon not be.

The Good News: On the other hand, trees and forests help mitigate changes in climate. Through photosynthesis, trees absorb and reduce atmospheric CO₂ while producing oxygen. They are especially effective in our urban areas as these are places where a lot of CO₂ is created. When trees are sited properly around buildings, shade can reduce energy use, meaning less CO₂ emitted at the power plant. Similarly, shading cars in parking lots or along streets means cooler interior vehicle temps and less fuel burned and less CO₂ produced for air conditioning. By blocking UV radiation and reducing temperatures, trees also help keep asphalt surfaces from breaking down and releasing volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Since VOCs absorb and hold in heat, reducing VOC emissions helps reduce the urban “heat island” effect.

Adaptation: Here are some important steps to keep our community forests healthy and our cities more resilient to climate changes and other natural and human stressors.



Trees in our communities help reduce temperatures in many ways, such as shading streets, parking lots and other surfaces that contribute to “heat islands”.

1. **Complete a tree inventory** so you know what you have, and from this information develop a plan for what you need and how to improve overall forest resilience.
2. **Take care of the trees you have.** Large trees provide more value and benefits, so keeping them healthy is a good investment. Increase health and vigor by providing sufficient water during dry spells and periodically pruning for health and structure. Water is key!
3. **Diversify your urban forest.** When planting new trees, consider what will work best for the current and future climate, especially drought tolerant species. Be sure not to overplant any one family, genera or species. See issue 76 (fall 2015) for information on diversity targets and their importance.
4. **Plant trees strategically.** Consider the issues you want to address—stormwater, energy, air quality, recreation, human health, underserved communities, etc.—and focus planting where these benefits will be greatest. Then, create site conditions that enhance tree health and plant correctly.
5. **Assess and adjust.**

There are many good references on trees and climate. An especially good one is Urban Forests: A Climate Adaptation Guide by British Columbia Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development: http://www.retooling.ca/_Library/docs/Urban_Forests_Guide.pdf.

Photo courtesy of David Stephenson

Idaho Students Plant Trees in Africa

Earlier this year Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) became the first institution in Idaho to meet the requirements for Tree Campus USA recognition. Now the students are spreading their knowledge and influence across the Atlantic Ocean.

Last August, Northwest Nazarene University (NNU) took a mission team to Kenya. Five NNU students and one sponsor spent 2 weeks in Nairobi and Lodwar, Kenya. NNU partnered with 4 students from Africa Nazarene University in Nairobi. The main project was to travel to Lodwar to run a leadership empowerment camp for student leaders in Junior High and High School. Freedom Found was the name of the camp. The kids there were already student leaders in Lodwar, an economically disadvantaged community. They were selected to come to the camp and learn more about what it means to be a leader, to talk about issues in their own communities and to work together to solve problems.

Part of the camp was to help students identify local needs, figure out what resources they had to help meet those needs, create a plan to do a project, and then educate people



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Driggs' Adopt-a-Landscape Program

Driggs is a small community but its residents take pride in the attractive downtown area in which to live, work, and play. The city is committed to keeping its greenways beautiful, but staff levels have remained the same while maintenance needs have grown. The solution: The Adopt-a-Landscape Program.

The Adopt-a-Landscape Program allows community groups, businesses, service clubs, schools, private clubs, youth groups and individuals to adopt a landscape planter, park strip, bulb-out, or park area in order to provide additional maintenance for Driggs' green spaces. After a month of active involvement, participants are acknowledged with a sign at their site. Adopted location activities include weeding, mulching, planting flowers or shrubs, and picking up litter. The city offers groups or individuals a \$125 stipend the first year to compensate for their time and to purchase plants and mulch.

In addition to the sign, participants receive a certificate of appreciation and occasional media coverage. But more than that, the residents have the satisfaction of knowing that they helped make the City of Driggs a place of beauty and vitality.

from their community on the issue and how to solve it. The group decided that planting trees was important because of deforestation that is making poor communities even poorer. They wanted to plant trees for shade and the many environmental benefits trees provide.

Trees were then provided and an agriculturist who was volunteering at the camp taught the students the proper way to plant a tree. The campers then gathered street children from the community, shared their knowledge, and planted 15 trees at the camp location. The students then went to a farm operated by women rescued from situations of gender-based violence and planted windbreak trees.

Continued on page 3.



Northwest Nazarene University students from Nampa made new friends and helped plant trees where they are badly needed in Kenya.

Photo by Olivia Metcalf



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Now it can be said that NNU is planting trees on its own campus in Nampa and around the world! This work will meet the requirements for a service project necessary to maintain the university's Tree Campus USA designation. For more information about Tree Campus USA, you can visit arborday.org/programs/treecampususa.

Scholarship Opportunity: Municipal Forestry Institute

Idaho Department of Lands is offering two \$2,100 scholarships for municipal staff to attend the week-long national 2017 Municipal Forestry Institute from February



19-24 in Lake Arrowhead, CA (<http://www.urban-forestry.com/mfi-2017>).

The Institute is an intensive, high-level leadership training and education program. It helps participants build leadership skills, think and plan strategically, and increase success in working

with boards, coalitions, organizations and individuals. If interested in applying for a scholarship please download the fill-in application form (<http://www.idl.idaho.gov/forestry/community-forestry/index.htm>), complete and return it to IDL by November 18, 2016.

It's That Time of Year...

The trees have their fall colors which means it's time to start working on your city's Tree City USA application. The deadline for applications is December 15th, and it helps tremendously if you can meet that. The easiest way to complete your application is on-line at <https://portal.arborday.org/Login.aspx>. If you encounter any problems with the on-line tool or have any questions on the process, please call David Stephenson in the Coeur d'Alene office of IDL (See masthead). Note that the website doesn't support Mozilla Firefox, so please use Chrome or Explorer. If you've made efforts to grow your program, consider also applying for a Tree City Growth Award. If your city isn't a Tree City USA, please consider applying to become one. Go to the website and learn more about the program, with links in the right column for the benefits of participation and a list of criteria.



Fall/Winter 2016 Events Calendar

October 24-27

Northern Utah Arborist School, Salt Lake City, UT. Visit www.utahurbanforest.org/ for more information and to register.

November 15

Society of Municipal Arborists Conference, Indianapolis, IN. Visit www.urban-forestry.com/ for more information and to register.

November 16-17

Partners in Urban Forestry Conference, Indianapolis, IN. Visit www.arborday.org/programs/pcf/ for more information and to register.

December 7-9

ISA Tree Risk Assessment Qualification Course (TRAQ), Spokane, WA. Visit <http://pnwisa.org/event/4856/> for more information and to register

December 15

Tree City USA Applications due to IDL. Apply online at <https://portal.arborday.org/Login.aspx>

January 18-20, 2017

Idaho Horticulture Expo, Boise, ID. Visit inlagrow.org for more information and to register.

February 20, 2017

Turf, Tree & Landscape Conference, Post Falls, ID. Visit inlagrow.org for more information and to register.

February 20-24, 2017

Municipal Forestry Institute (MFI), Lake Arrowhead, CA. Visit www.urban-forestry.com/mfi-2017 for more information and to register.

Urban Forest Connections Webinar Series:

www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/ Webinars are one hour starting at 10 a.m. PDT, 11 a.m. MDT.

- ☐ Dec 14 – Topic TBD—visit website for topics and past webinars
- ☐ I-Tree Online Workshops (www.unri.org/itreetworkshops/)
 - ☐ Oct 19: Using i-Tree Design and Canopy
 - ☐ Nov 16: Taking Stock of Street Trees: i-Tree Streets
 - ☐ Dec 21: i-Tree Roundtable: Answering your questions on i-Tree

Upcoming Certified Arborist (CA), Certified Tree Worker (CTW), Municipal Specialist (MS) and Utility Specialist (UA) written Exams

Oct. 28, Salt Lake City, UT (CA, UA, MS)

Nov. 19—Pocatello, ID (CA, UA, MS, CTW-written exam)

For information or to register, visit

www.isa-arbor.com/certification/becomeCertified/index.aspx



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Copies of this and 84 other informative bulletins are available at the Bulletin Archive, arborday.org/bulletins

Grow Your Tree Board

In many communities the tree board (or commission, or committee) is the main line of defense for local trees. The volunteers are champions of trees and advocates for tree planting and proper care. But tree boards, too, need care to be at their best. Here are a few tips from Arbor Day Foundation's Tree City USA Bulletin No. 54:

- ☐ Have the right mix of members so they represent the ethnic composition of the community and skills or knowledge pertinent to tree care or community action.
- ☐ There should be written 'job descriptions' so member responsibilities are clear.
- ☐ Meetings should not waste volunteers' valuable time. An agenda should be used and other rules of good meeting management followed.
- ☐ Continuing education and training should be made available to members – like conference attendance, reading material and guest speakers.